

REMARKS

At the time the current Official Action was mailed, the Examiner rejected claims 1-20.

While Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's rejections of claim 1-10 and 17-20, Applicants have canceled claims 1-10 and 17-20 to further prosecution of the instant application. Applicants reserve the right to file a continuation to pursue the canceled subject matter. The only outstanding rejection of claims 11-16 is an obviousness-type double patenting rejection. Reconsideration of the application in view of the remarks set forth below is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under the Doctrine of Obviousness-Type Double Patenting

The Examiner rejected claims 11-16 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-11 of copending U.S. Patent No. 6,682,955. Although, Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's rejection, Applicants submit a properly executed terminal disclaimer. Applicants respectfully submit that the terminal disclaimer obviates the Examiner's obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks set forth above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Examiner's rejections and allowance of all pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

General Authorization for Extensions of Time and Payment of Fees

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, Applicants hereby provide a general authorization to treat this and any future reply requiring an extension of time as incorporating a request therefore. Furthermore, Applicants authorize the Commissioner to charge the appropriate fee for any extension of time to the credit card listed on the electronic fee transmittal submitted concurrently herewith. However, if the electronic fee transmittal is missing, if the amount listed thereon is insufficient, or if the amount is unable to be charged to the credit card for any other reason, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No.06-1315; Order No. MICS:0078-4/MAN. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees that may be due at this time or at any time during the pendency of this application, including the fee for the submission of the Terminal Disclaimer, to the credit card listed on the electronic fee transmittal submitted concurrently herewith.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 21, 2007

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